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Alaska
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Week of November 8, 1982

WOMEN'S BUREAU JOB FAIR
DRAWS 1,000 WOMEN, MEN

WASHINGTON -- About 1,000 women and men attended the second of a series of Job Fair/Employment Exchange programs sponsored by the Women's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Labor.

Dr. Lenora Cole-Alexander, director of the Women's Bureau, said that while the public sector has given "leadership to this initiative, the private sector's participation will measure the success of our efforts."

In opening the program, "Emphasis Women: Employment, Information, Exchange," in Washington, D.C., Dr. Cole-Alexander cited the Women's Bureau's congressional mandate to "promote the welfare of women by increasing their efficiency and advancing their opportunities for profitable employment."

The Job Fair includes an employment information exchange and a job-matching service that will follow for one year.

Dr. Cole-Alexander urged program participants to take advantage of the services being provided by the more than 30 area employers, and to use the information in making decisions about their job options and training needs.

She emphasized that the program "demonstrates the value of linkages between government, community-based organizations and the private sector.

"This type of cooperation is essential if we are to generate new jobs and meet the challenges of economic recovery. Government is keenly aware of the importance of establishing a partnership with the business sector and community organizations to provide meaningful employment opportunities," Dr. Cole-Alexander said.

Washington, D.C., Mayor Marion Barry urged participants to give sincere attention to the workshops, films and exhibits at the Job Fair.

Representing the business sector, Catherine Sharp, personnel director of the Hechinger Company, emphasized that today's job market "is very competitive."

She urged participants to develop positive attitudes and cited factors to consider in seeking jobs, such as appearance, proper dress, punctuality, work readiness, attitude and persistence.

"Glean every bit of information from the seminars and incorporate it in your future job efforts," Sharp urged.

Seminars, held concurrently, included various topics such as coping with stress, job preparation, retraining and developing new skills, apprenticeship and nontraditional careers, and starting a business.

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Job-seekers had a chance to visit with representatives of participating employers and to gather information related to jobs and training. The program included counseling and testing services and an overview by business representatives of employment trends in the area.

The program was based on a job fair held last year in Westchester County, N.Y.

According to partial results 10 months after that job fair, 363 women had found jobs in a wide range of occupations, Dr. Cole-Alexander said.

In addition to the Women's Bureau, the District of Columbia Department of Employment Services and the United Planning Organization, the one-day job fair was co-sponsored by other local government agencies, the Office of the Mayor, and more than 30 area employers.

The Women's Bureau is planning other job fairs in Boston, Mass.; Fort Wayne, Ind.; New Orleans, La.; Grand Junction, Colo.; Billings, Mont.; Evanston, Wyo.; Anchorage, Alaska, and several other cities.

# # #

Week of November 8, 1982

FUNDING OF CHILD CARE PROJECTS TO SERVE
DISADVANTAGED FEMALE HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS

WASHINGTON -- Grants totaling $400,000 have been awarded to four community based organizations to provide child care services to disadvantaged single heads of households.

The 1-year projects will demonstrate innovative child care systems to serve women who are participating intraining for private sector jobs, Secretary of Labor Raymond J. Donovan announced.

Grants of $100,000 to each of the four projects were awarded by the Women's Bureau with funds from the Employment and Training Administration. The recipients are:

Opportunities Industrialization Center
Providence, R.I.

Atlanta Urban League
Atlanta, GA.

Wider Opportunities for Women
Washington, D.C.

Center for Employment Training
San Jose, CA.

The child care initiatives are part of a cooperative effort of the bureau and the Rockefeller Foundation, which has awarded grants to the four organizations to provide training and job placement for single heads of households.

Donovan, announcing the grants at ceremonies in Providence, said that the Labor Department's commitment to address the training and employment needs of women includes a commitment to child care as well. "Without the availability of child care many women are not able to avail themselves of training programs. The combined public and private resources in these projects respond to both training and family support for women who need them most."

Women's Bureau Director Dr. Lenora Cole-Alexander, also participating in the grant announcement, said that the bureau's cooperative effort with the Rockefeller Foundation will bring together two important issues that need to be addressed--the increasing number of women who maintain families and the increasing need for child care.

"The projects will add a new thrust to the bureau's concerted national and regional focus on child care," Cole-Alexander added. "We are working with private sector employers and community organizations to establish systems across the country. We want to give greater visibility to this issue by creating an awareness of the need for child care, the options available, and benefits to employers as well as workers."

Others participating in the ceremony were Rev. Leon Sullivan, founder and president of Opportunities Industrialization Center; Michael Van Leesten, executive director, Rhode Island OIC; Jane P. Fleming, executive director, Wider Opportunities for Women; and Russell Tersky, executive director, Center for Employment Training.

# # #

LABOR DEPARTMENT FUNDS 15 RESEARCH CONTRACTS

WASHINGTON -- The award of 15 contracts totaling $2.6 million for research and analysis of major aspects of the Labor Department's training efforts and the operation of the unemployment insurance (UI) system was announced by Secretary of Labor Raymond J. Donovan.

The new contracts, administered by the department's Employment and Training Administration, were effective Oct. 1 and will run for up to 18 months. All were awarded under new procurement procedures which call for competitive bidding, replacing the former method of sole source funding.

The contractors and the amounts of the contracts, organized by topics to be studied, are --

The net impact of program participation on trainee's future earnings:

SRI International, Menlo Park, Calif. -- $289,479
Mathematica Policy Research, Inc., Washington, D.C. -- $224,099

Development of new methods for analyzing long-term participant data:

National Opinion Research Center, Chicago, Ill. -- $61,954
The Rand Corp., Santa Monica, Calif. -- $120,763

Indicators of effective training:

SRI International, Menlo Park, Calif. -- $146,785
Center for Economic Research, University of Texas, Austin -- $163,795

The impact of training on welfare recipients and youth:

The Urban Institute, Washington, D.C. -- $195,779

Impact of recent UI extended benefit legislation:

Mathematica Policy Research, Princeton, N.J. -- $117,690

Assessment of how state policies/procedures effect the rate of denying benefits for reasons other than failure to meet wage requirements:

Mathematica Policy Research, Madison, Wisc. -- $122,107

Examination of the "repeater phenomenon" and how it might be altered by various states' qualifying requirements:

The Policy Research Group, Washington, D.C. -- $194,891

Relationship between the total and insured unemployment rates:

The Brookings Institution, Washington, D.C. -- $55,361

(MORE)

Effects of the duration of unemployment benefits, particularly on job-seeking behavior and reemployment wages:

Mathematica Policy Research, Princeton, N.J. -- $107,461

Effects of the methods (experience rating systems) states use to measure individual employers' tax rates:

Center for Naval Analyses, Alexandria, Va. -- $178,761
Unicon Research Corp., Santa Monica, Calif. -- $160,699

Development of framework for defining and measuring specific occupations for which there is a shortage or surplus of workers:

National Bureau of Economic Research, Cambridge, Mass. -- $463,167

# # #

Week of November 8, 1982

EX-SERVICEMEMBERS TO GET UP TO
13 WEEKS OF JOBLESS PAY BENEFITS

WASHINGTON -- Most unemployed veterans who were honorably discharged on or since July 1, 1981, will be eligible for up to 13 weeks of unemployment insurance (UI) benefits as a result of a change in the law governing ex-servicemembers, Secretary of Labor Raymond J. Donovan announced.

Previously, veterans were not eligible for unemployment compensation if they chose not to reenlist.

The new provisions are contained in the Miscellaneous Revenue Act of 1982, which President Reagan signed into law Oct. 25, 1982. The legislation modifies 1981 amendments to the Unemployment Compensation Act for Ex-Servicemembers which had disqualified persons who voluntarily left the military service or were separated for cause.

As a result of the new law, an estimated 127,000 veterans are expected to collect UI benefits during Fiscal 1983. Veterans who were found entitled to benefits under the old law will not be affected and will continue to receive benefits.

"I am happy to see weekly benefit checks to honorably discharged veterans restored," Secretary Donovan said. "This should ease considerably their transition from military to civilian life."

The new UI eligibility rules for veterans require that a person must have completed his/her first full term of active service and have been separated from the military service under honorable conditions. If separated before completion of such term of service, he/she must have been discharged:

(a) For the convenience of the Government,
(b) for medical reasons, pregnancy, or parenthood,
(c) for hardship, or
(d) for personality disorder or inaptitude, but only if the service was continuous for 365 days or more.

Benefits are payable to veterans beginning the fifth week after the week in which they were separated. Individual state laws determine the specific amount of weekly benefit payments.

Unemployment compensation is administered by the Unemployment Insurance Service in the Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. Payment of claims is administered by state unemployment insurance agencies under agreements with the secretary of labor.

# # #

Week of November 8, 1982

DONOVAN, PLOWDEN ANNOUNCE VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT IMPROVEMENTS

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. Department of Labor is moving quickly to put into effect recent legislation signed by President Reagan to improve services to veterans, Secretary of Labor Raymond J. Donovan and Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment William C. Plowden Jr. announced.

President Reagan signed the Veterans' Compensation, Education and Employment Amendments of 1982 (Public Law 97-306) on Oct. 14.

In addition to a 7.4 percent cost-of-living increase in compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and widows, effective Oct. 1, the measure:

-- Requires the secretary of labor to administer, through the assistant secretary for veterans' employment, all national employment and training programs for disabled and Vietnam-era veterans.

-- Requires federal contractors to report annually to the secretary of labor on their affirmative action efforts to hire Vietnam-era and disabled veterans.

-- Gives the assistant secretary for veterans' employment greater flexibility in administering the national Disabled Veterans' Outreach Program (DVOP), which employs some 2,000 disabled veterans nationwide in helping other veterans obtain jobs.

-- Transfers the program protecting veterans', reservists' and National Guardsmen's job rights from the assistant secretary of labor for labor-management services to the assistant secretary for veterans' employment.

-- Establishes an advisory secretary of labor's Committee on Veterans' Employment.

Secretary Donovan and Assistant Secretary Plowden said another new law, the Job Training Partnership Act (Public Law 97-30), signed by President Reagan Oct. 13, identifies veterans as one of three groups for which special nationally-administered employment and training programs are to be provided.

This law provides for $12-14 million to be set aside each year to meet the employment and training needs of veterans with service-connected disabilities, Vietnam-era veterans, and recently discharged veterans.

Such programs, to be conducted for the Labor Department under contract by public and private nonprofit agencies, will be designed to enhance other employment services to veterans and to provide outreach and public information activities to promote maximum job opportunities for the three groups of veterans.

Secretary Donovan and Assistant Secretary Plowden said:

"These two new laws signed by President Reagan will help the Labor Department greatly in fulfilling one of its most important missions: assisting those who have served in the defense of their country in qualifying for and obtaining worthwhile employment on their return to civilian life."

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Plowden said the Veterans' Compensation, Education and Employment Amendments would be especially useful in helping disabled and Vietnam-era veterans still having trouble getting a break in the job market.

"I think," Plowden said, "that veterans unemployment will be eased at a much faster rate because of this law."

Plowden expressed optimism about his expanded role under the Job Training Partnership Act.

He said the veterans' provisions "will greatly assist us in training and placing veterans in jobs and will permit us to target our resources where they are most needed, stretching our available resources by effectively linking with local delivery systems and other ongoing programs."

He said these ongoing programs include the Targeted Jobs Tax Credit (TJTC) Program and the Veterans Administration's on-the-job training programs.

# # #

Week of November 8, 1982

LABOR DEPARTMENT PUBLISHES
RESOURCE GUIDE TO LABOR-MANAGEMENT COOPERATION

WASHINGTON -- A resource guide describing the size and structure of 180 cooperative labor-management programs in operation throughout the country has been published by the U.S. Department of Labor's Division of Cooperative Labor-Management Programs.

The 198-page directory also identifies industry, regional, and area committees and resource centers which provide information and services to encourage the development of cooperative programs.

The "Resource Guide to Labor-Management Cooperation" is designed to assist cooperative labor-management efforts by assisting current and potential participants to learn about existing programs. The entries were selected to permit business and labor leaders to locate programs in which others in their region, industry, or union are involved.

Each entry lists the name of the program, the industry and union participating, how many people are covered, how the program is set up, and what areas and issues are covered by the cooperative agreement. A brief description of the program and contacts for additional information are also included.

Cooperative labor-management programs, also known as quality of work life programs, are joint efforts by labor and management to work together to solve problems of mutual concern. Their aim is more satisfied and productive employees and more efficient, adaptive, and productive organizations.

The resource guide is available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, and from the Office's regional bookstores. The stock number for the resource guide is 029-000-00414-5 and it costs $7.00.

The Division of Cooperative Labor-Management Programs was created by Secretary of Labor Raymond J. Donovan within the Department's Labor-Management Services Administration to encourage and assist employers, employees, and, unions, to undertake joint efforts to improve productivity and enhance the quality of working life.

For further information about the resource guide or other cooperative labor-management issues, contact the Division of Cooperative Labor-Management Programs, Labor-Management Services Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, Washington, D.C. 20216, telephone (202)-523-6094.

# # # #

Week of November 8, 1982

LABOR DEPARTMENT ISSUES
CRIMINAL JUSTICE JOBS GUIDE

WASHINGTON -- Careers in the criminal justice system is the subject of a new publication from the U.S. Department of Labor.

To help jobseekers explore opportunities, the department's new publication contains detailed descriptions of 68 professional and nonprofessional occupations dealing with the prevention and control of crime, the protection of society, justice for the individual, and rehabilitation of the offender.

"Criminal Justice Careers Guidebook," third in the Careers Guidebook series, was prepared by the Labor Department's Employment and Training Administration with the cooperation of the U.S. Department of Justice and the major state, city and private criminal justice agencies.

Occupational descriptions are presented in three sections: law enforcement, broken down into jobs on the federal, state, county and local levels, and supportive services; the judiciary; and corrections and rehabilitation, broken down into custodial, rehabilitative, and administrative.

Each occupational description includes:

-- Description of work, including major job duties, how and why this work was done, places of employment, and areas of specialization;

-- Job requirements, covering necessary professional training, recommended or required preprofessional education, and special skills or aptitudes necessary or helpful for successful job performance, and state licensure, professional certification, or registration necessary for the job; and

-- Opportunities, indicating the future employment outlook and opportunities for advancement.

The Labor Department cautions that no occupation description can be expected to coincide exactly with a specific job in a particular establishment or locality. The Department suggeststhat the descriptions should be supplemented by local information about specific jobs in the community. Wages and hours were not collected in preparation of the occupational descriptions.

Included in the law enforcement occupations are such jobs as alcohol, tobacco, and firearms inspector, border patrol agent, customs inspector, customs patrol officer, postal inspector, FBI special agent, IRS special agent, Secret Service special agent, deputy sheriff, detective lieutenant, detective sergeant, police detective, police officer, state police officer, state police sergeant, criminologist, fingerprint technician, police dispatcher, and serology technician.

In the corrections and rehabilitation occupations are such jobs as children's institution attendant, correction officer, child welfare caseworker, clinical psychologist, penologist, recreation leader, vocational instructor, correctional institution education supervisor, superintendent of industries, and warden.

"Criminal Justice Careers Guidebook" is available at $7.00 per copy from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

# # #

Week of November 8, 1982

LABOR DEPARTMENT INTENDS TO DEFER DATE FOR
DISTRIBUTION OF UPDATED SUMMARY PLAN DESCRIPTIONS

WASHINGTON -- The Department of Labor intends to issue a final regulation shortly that would permit employee benefit plan administrators to defer beyond Nov. 16, 1982, distribution of updates to the summary plan descriptions required to be furnished participants and beneficiaries and filed with the department under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA).

A proposed regulation issued March 26, 1982 would have extended the earliest compliance date for furnishing updated summary plan descriptions to Nov. 16, 1982. The announcement is intended to allow plans to avoid unnecessary costs while the regulation is being completed.

The final regulation, which would defer by at least 12 months the date on which the update is required, will give the department additional time to consider implementing the ERISA Paperwork Task Force's recent recommendation that plans be provided with an alternative means of complying with the updated summary plan description requirements.

The task force, which was established within the Office of Pension and Welfare Benefit Programs (PWBP) to recommend ways to reduce ERISA's paperwork requirements, recommended an alternative which would permit plans to distribute a copy of the latest summary plan description along with summaries of later plan changes instead of distributing a new summary.

The task force also recommended that plans be permitted to post a notice informing participants of the availability, upon request, of these summary plan description materials free of charge, in lieu of distributing materials to each participant.

# # #

Week of November 8, 1982

MAJOR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING SETTLEMENTS IN PRIVATE INDUSTRY, FIRST 9 MONTHS 1982

WASHINGTON -- Major collective bargaining settlements reached in private industry during the first 9 months of 1982 provided specified wage adjustments that averaged 3.8 percent in the first contract year, the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics reported. Wage adjustments averaged 3.5 percent each year over the life of the contracts. These averages compare with 8.3 and 6.4 percent, respectively, when the same parties bargained previously (usually 2 to 3 years ago).

The Bureau's major collective bargaining settlements series covers 8.5 million workers in private industry bargaining units with at least 1,000 workers. In addition to the average settlement data presented above, data are published on "effective wage adjustments" which reflect actual wage adjustments received during the period. Effective wage adjustments are changes under current settlements, those deferred from agreements reached earlier, and those resulting from cost-of-living adjustments (COLA) clauses.

Settlements reached in the first 9 months of 1982

Three-fifths of the 2.7 million workers covered by settlements during the first 9 months will receive at least one specified increase during the life of the agreement. The average increase for these workers is 7.1 percent in the first contract year and 5.9 percent annually over the life of the contract. Workers who will receive increases are in a variety of industries, including construction, apparel, electrical equipment manufacturing, and utilities.

Almost all workers who will not receive specified increases are covered by settlements reached during the first half of the year, primarily in automobile manufacturing and trucking; nearly all of these workers are covered by cost-of-living adjustment clauses. (COLA's are not included in average settlement calculations because they depend on unknown future changes in the Consumer Price Index.)

Two-thirds of all workers under settlements concluded during the first 9 months of 1982 are covered by COLA clauses. Most of these workers will not receive a specified wage increase during the life of the contract. Therefore, the average size of settlements with COLA clauses was much lower than usual, accentuating the difference between contracts with and without COLA. First-year negotiated adjustments averaged 2.2 percent in settlements with COLA clauses compared with 7.1 percent in those without such clauses. Wage adjustments over the life of the contracts were 1.9 percent and 6.7 percent, respectively. Settlements with COLA clauses have an average duration of 34 months; those without such clauses averaged 25 months.

Construction industry settlements had the smallest 9-month increase since 1978. Wage adjustments for settlements in the first 9 months of 1982 averaged 7.0 percent the first year and 6.9 percent over the life of the agreements, compared with 11.3 and 10.0 percent, respectively, when the same parties previously bargained. The average duration for these contracts dropped to 22 months from 27 months under the previous agreements.

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The Bureau also measures compensation (wage and benefit cost) changes in settlements covering at least 5,000 workers. In the first 9 months, such settlements provided compensation adjustments that averaged 3.3 percent in the first contract year and 2.5 percent over the life of the agreements.

Effective wage adjustments

Effective wage adjustments (both increases and decreases) under collective bargaining agreements result from (1) settlements reached during the period, (2) deferred changes made under agreements negotiated in earlier periods, and (3) COLA provisions. Approximately 6.9 million workers received wage adjustments averaging 6.5 percent in the first 9 months of 1982; when prorated over all 8.5 million workers covered by major agreements, wage adjustments put into effect during the first 9 months of the year averaged 5.3 percent. About 1.6 million workers, including 1,238,000 under new settlements, had no wage change in the period.

Average wage changes (in percent) in the first 9 months were as follows:

	For workers receiving adjustments	For all workers (prorated)
All adjustments	6.5	5.3
New settlements	7.3	1.0
Deferred adjustments	6.1	3.2
COLA increases	2.7	1.1

COLA clauses are designed to help workers recover purchasing power lost through price increases. The proportion of purchasing power recovered under individual bargaining agreements depends on the formula used to relate wage changes to price changes, the timing of COLA reviews, and possible "caps" on the amount of COLA increases. COLA reviews scheduled during the first 9 months of 1982 for 3.4 million workers yielded approximately three-fourths of the rise in consumer prices during the months of COLA review.

Approximately 161,000 workers had at least one COLA review that did not result in any wage adjustment. For 43 percent of these workers, no adjustment was made because the minimum change in the CPI was not reached; for 27 percent (primarily in the construction industry), the money generated by the COLA formula was allocated to finance employee benefits. Most of the remainder did not get an adjustment because the "cap" or maximum was reached earlier. In addition, COLA reviews that had been scheduled for 782,000 workers were eliminated by terms agreed to under unscheduled contract reopenings.

Bargaining activity, fourth quarter 1982

During the October-December 1982 period, 79 major agreements, covering 274,000 workers, are due to expire or may be reopened for wage negotiations. In addition, at least 68 agreements, covering 463,000 workers, expired prior to October 1, but new agreements had not been reached or ratified by the end of September.

Approximately 854,000 workers are scheduled to receive deferred wage changes, averaging 4.0 percent, during the fourth quarter. These changes will be made under provisions of existing bargaining agreements negotiated earlier. About 2.1 million workers, principally in the transportation equipment, steel, non-electrical equipment, railroad and retail food industries are scheduled for COLA reviews.

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Week of November 8, 1982

THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: SEPTEMBER 1982

WASHINGTON -- The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) rose 0.2 percent in September before seasonal adjustment, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported.

Prior to seasonal adjsutment, the All Items experimental measure using a rental equivalence approach (CIP-U, X-1) advanced 0.5 percent and the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) increased 0.1 percent. On a 1967=100 basis, the CPI-U rose to a level of 293.3, the CPI-W to 292.8, and the CPI-U, X-1 to 266.8. Compared with their levels in September 1981, the CPI-U was 5.0 percent higher, the CPI-W 4.9 percent higher, and the CPI-U, X-1 5.5 percent higher.

CPI for All Urban Consumers (CIP-U)--Seasonally Adjusted Changes

On a seasonally adjusted basis, the CPI for All Urban Consumers rose 0.2 percent, while the experimental CPI-U, X-1 increased 0.5 percent.

The September increase of 0.2 percent in the official CPI-U, follows an increase of 0.3 percent in August and is in line with the generally moderate rate of increase since last October. The housing component declined in September, primarily reflecting lower mortgage interest rates and house prices. Food and beverage prices posted their first rise since June. The other goods and services component rose sharply while the remaining categories of consumer spending rose about the same as in August.

For the first 9 months of 1982, the CPI-U rose at a seasonally adusted annual rate of 4.8 percent. In the 3 months ended in September, the index advanced at a 4.2 percent annual rate, compared with a 9.3 percent increase in the second quarter. The slowdown in prices from the second to the third quarter is attributable to housing and food and beverages. Over the past 12 months, however, all index groups, with the exception of medical care components, rose more moderately than in the preceding 12 month period.

The index for food and beverages rose 0.5 percent in September, following a decline of 0.3 percent in August. Grocery store food prices also advanced 0.5 percent. The index for meats, poultry, fish, and eggs, which declined 1.0 percent in August, increased 1.3 percent in September and accounted for most of the acceleration in food prices. Egg prices rose 7.1 percent, following a 13.3 percent decline in August. Pork prices continued to increase sharply -- up almost 20 percent during the first 9 months of 1982. Beef prices rose slightly following 2 months of declines. The index for fruits and vegetables declined in September, but not by as much as in the preceding 2 months. Fresh fruit prices registered a substantial increase and fresh vegetable prices declined. All other grocery store foods recorded small declines or moderate increases. The index for restaurant meals rose 0.6 percent while alcoholic beverage prices were unchanged.

The housing component declined 0.2 percent in September. A 0.7 percent decline in homeownership costs was partially offset by increases in the indexes for other shelter costs and fuel and other utilities. Home financing costs declined 1.8 percent, reflecting a 1.5 percent decrease in mortgage interest rates and a 0.4 percent drop in house prices. The rent index rose 0.4 percent. Other rental costs rose sharply, largely due to higher costs for lodging while at school. The index for fuel and other utilities increased 0.9 percent as charges for natural gas rose 2.7 percent and electricity rose 0.1 percent. Fuel oil prices registered a small decline for the second consecutive month. The index for household furnishings and operations was uncharged in September, following a small decline in August.

The transportation component increased 0.3 percent in September, the same as in August. The index for gasoline registered a small decline for the second consecutive month, following an 8.4 percent increase in the 3-month period ended in July. As of September, gasoline prices were 7.8 percent below their peak level of March 1981. Automobile finance charges -- down 2.0 percent in September -- also declined for the second consecutive month.

(MORE)

Price declines were also recorded for tires and motor oil, coolant, and other products. Tire prices were 1.6 percent lower in September than at the beginning of the year. These declines, however, were more than offset by increases in other transportation components, particularly, used cars and public transportation. The index for used cars -- up 1.2 percent -- advanced sharply for the third month in a row, following moderate increases during the first 6 months of 1982. New car prices rose 0.2 percent, following seasonal adjustment. The index for public transportation rose 1.5 percent, largely due to a 3.0 percent increase in airline fares.

The medical care index rose 0.9 percent in September, about the same as in recent months. The index for medical care commodities, which includes prescription and nonprescription drugs and medical supplies, also increased 0.9 percent. Charges for hospital rooms and physicians' services rose 1.1 and 0.6 percent, respectively.

The index for apparel and upkeep rose 0.2 percent in September, following a 0.4 percent increase in August. Increases in prices for the new fall and winter lines of merchandise generally followed the normal seasonal pattern.

The index for other goods and services registered a 1.5 percent increase. A 3.1 percent increase in cigarette prices and higher charges for school tuition and fees -- up 8.5 percent -- and school books and supplies accounted for most of the increase. The index for entertainment increased 0.4 percent in September, the same as in the preceding month.

CPI-U Experimental Measure

On a seasonally adjusted basis, the CPI-U all items index using rent substitution (X-1) rose 0.5 percent in September. The official CPI-U rose 0.2 percent. The difference in September reflects the different treatment of homeownership costs in the two indexes. The CPI-U, X-1 uses rental charges to represent movement in shelter costs of homeowners. Rental charges increased 0.4 percent in September. The official CPI-U employs house prices, mortgage interest rates, property taxes, property insurance, and maintenance and repair costs. This measure of homeownership declined 0.7 percent in September.

CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W)--Seasonally Adjusted Changes

On a seasonally adjusted basis, the CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers advanced 0.2 percent in September, following a 0.3 percent increase in August. The food and beverage index increased 0.5 percent in September, after registering no change in July and declining 0.3 percent in August. The housing component declined 0.2 percent, due to a 0.8 percent decrease in homeownership costs. The index for transportation rose 0.3 percent in September, the same as in August. The indexes for medical care (0.8 percent) apparel and upkeep (0.5 percent), and entertainment (0.3 percent) rose about the same as in August. The other goods and services component advanced sharply -- up 1.5 percent -- due to increases in cigarette prices and charges for school tuition and fees and school books and supplies.

# # #

Week of November 8, 1982

REAL EARNINGS IN SEPTEMBER 1982

WASHINGTON -- Real average weekly earnings decreased 0.3 percent from August to September, after seasonal adjustment, according to preliminary data released by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. Average hourly earnings decreased 0.1 percent, and consumer prices increased 0.2 percent. Average weekly hours were unchanged.

Gross average weekly earnings are collected from the payrolls of private nonfarm establishments. Earnings of both full-time and part-time workers holding production or nonsupervisory jobs are included. Real average weekly earnings are calculated by adjusting earnings in current dollars for changes in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers. (CPI-W).

Since September 1981, average weekly earnings increased 4.0 percent as a 4.9 percent increase in average hourly earnings partially was offset by a 0.9 percent decrease in average weekly hours. Real average weekly earnings, however, decreased by 0.9 percent due to a 4.9 percent increase in the CPI-W. Before adjustment for seasonal change and deflation by the CPI-W, gross average weekly earnings were $270.05 in September, compared with $259.74 a year earlier.

The Hourly Earnings Index in dollars of constant purchasing power decreased 0.1 percent from August to September. Compared with a year ago, the index was up 1.1 percent. The index excludes the effects of overtime in manufacturing and some of the effects of interindustry shifts, such as the shift of workers between high-wage and low-wage industries.

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Week of November 8, 1982

CONSUMER PRICES: ENERGY AND FOOD -
SEPTEMBER 1982

WASHINGTON -- The September price for all types of gasoline decreased 1.5 cents to $1.295, the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics reported.

The September prices of leaded regular gasoline averaged $1.236; unleaded regular, $1.308; and leaded premium, $1.441.

In cities for which gasoline prices are published, prices for all types of gasoline averaged highest in Honolulu and lowest in Houston.

The average retail prices for energy and food for September 1982 are collected by BLS in conjunction with the Consumer Price Index.

The U.S. price per gallon of fuel oil decreased to $1.191 in September. In the 17 cities for which fuel oil prices are published, the price per gallon averaged highest in Buffalo and lowest in Atlanta.

Electricity and Natural Gas

The U.S. average price for 500 KWH was $38.265, down 20.6 cents from August. The price for 40 therms was $23.783, 67.9 cents higher than August. The price for 100 therms was $56.804, $2.524 higher than August.

Food

The U.S. average retail price increased for 32 items and declined for 46 items in September 1982.

Five increases and four decreases were recorded for items in the cereals and bakery products group this month. Changes ranged from a decline of 3.0 cents for salted soda crackers to an increase of 2.9 cents for chocolate chip cookies.

Large changes in price levels were reported for many meats, poultry, fish, and eggs items in September. Notably, average prices for all published pork items were higher. The largest increase in the group was for bacon, up 16.0 cents, with rump or shank halves and rump portions of ham posting sizeable changes as well. The largest decrease was for T-Bone steak, down 11.0 cents.

Two increases and four decreases were reported for dairy products. Average prices for all milk items were lower. The largest increase was for ice cream, up 1.0 cents, while the largest decrease was for fresh skim milk, down 1.0 percent.

-More-

Decreases outnumbered increases by an eighteen to six margin in the fruits and vegetables group. The changes spanned a wide range of values extending from a 16.9 cents decline for Thompson seedless grapes to an 11.0 cents increase for mushrooms. Five declines were greater than a nickel.

Average prices were higher for five items and lower for seven items in the other foods at home category in September. The largest change was a decline of 18.2 cents for instant coffee in 9.1 - 14 oz. containers. Changes in the group were generally small and all increases were less than one-half cent.

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Week of November 8, 1982

BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS KEEPS FINGERS ON NATION'S ECONOMIC PULSE

(Another in a series on laws and programs administered by the U.S. Department of Labor protecting workers.)

WASHINGTON -- Economic indicators produced by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) affect the lives of nearly all Americans.

Each month, millions look to BLS reports for answers to questions like these: How much have prices changed? Is unemployment going up or down? What is happening to wages? Business people, legislators, researchers, labor leaders, and persons in other walks of life want answers to these questions because they know that changes in economic indicators affect their pocketbooks and their paychecks.

As the principal data-gathering agency of the Federal Government in the broad field of labor economics, BLS collects, processes, analyzes, and disseminates data on a wide range of subjects, including employment, unemployment, prices, productivity, economic growth, wages, industrial relations, and occupational safety and health.

The data are from surveys conducted directly by BLS staff, on contract for BLS by the Bureau of the Census, or by cooperating State and Federal agencies. To be published by BLS, these data must meet rigid standards of accuracy, statistical quality, and impartiality in both subject matter and presentation, as well as timeliness and relevance.

The Bureau publishes its data in periodicals, handbooks, bulletins, reports, and news releases. The Bureau's six periodicals--Monthly Labor Review, Employment and Earnings, Current Wage Developments, Producer Prices and Price Indexes, CPI Detailed Report, and Occupational Outlook Quarterly--provide subscribers with comprehensive reports and analyses of current data. The Bureau's three handbooks--Occupational Outlook Handbook, Handbook of Methods, and Handbook of Labor Statistics--are among the most widely used volumes in many libraries. In its bulletins series, the Bureau annually publishes about 40 volumes dealing with a wide range of economic subjects and more than 100 area and industry wage surveys. Each year, BLS offices also issue hundreds of news releases and reports.

Recently, the Bureau inaugurated an electronic news release service that will permit persons interested in the Bureau's national economic indicators to gain access directly from the computer in which they are stored.

Some BLS data are available on microfiche from the National Technical Information Service (NTIS), 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, Virginia 22161, and on data tapes from BLS' Division of Planning and Financial Management, 441 G Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20212. NTIS also provides a monthly Consumer Price Index mailgram service within 24 hours of BLS' release of the data. And the Bureau maintains a large file of collective bargaining agreements which is open to the public. The Bureau's knowledgeable staff is trained to answer both general and technical questions on the Bureau's data.

A recorded summary of principal BLS numbers is available 24 hours a day by telephone (202-523-9658).

Last year, BLS regional and national offices responded to some 1 million inquiries -- about 4,000 each working day -- and distributed more than 3 million pieces of printed material.

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Week of November 8, 1982

FILLERS FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

The Employee Retirement Income Security Act is administered and enforced by the Department of Labor, the Internal Revenue Service, and the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation. The Labor Department's Office of Pension and Welfare Benefit Programs has primary responsibility for the reporting and disclosure requirements and fiduciary standards of the law.

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The Employee Retirement Income Security Act protects the rights and benefits of people covered by pension and welfare plans by establishing rules to assure that participants are furnished important information about their plans' operations and the government is provided sufficient information to enforce the law.

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The Employee Retirement Income Security Act protects the assets of pension and welfare plans against misuse by establishing standards of fiduciary conduct for persons who manage and operate pension plans.

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The Employee Retirement Income Security Act not only protects pension and welfare plan holders but it protects the spouses by requiring plans that make payments in the form of an annuity to provide retirement benefits to surviving spouses of retirees unless the employee elects otherwise.

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